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JUN 23 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 13, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. DA 97137

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing on behalf of nonprofit organizations and individuals who are concerned with equitable access to communications technologies and services. We believe that consumers should enjoy the competitive benefits - i.e. more choice, better quality and lower prices - promised with passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, as quickly as possible.

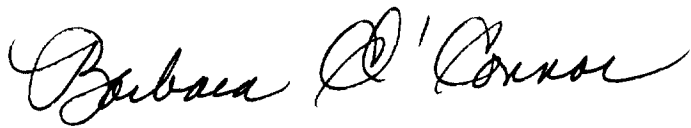
A balanced policy that provides a level playing field for both the local and long distance telephone markets can accelerate progress towards that goal and provide incentives for infrastructure investment and innovative services.

Ameritech's application to provide long distance service in Michigan is a case in point. We believe that local phone companies with an established record of infrastructure investment and service to local communities and their residents, like Ameritech, can offer a real competitive choice for long distance service. We, therefore, urge the Commission to give Ameritech's application the most serious consideration in order to bring real choice to Michigan consumers.

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Sincerely,



Barbara O'Connor  
Institute for the Study of Politics & Media  
California State University, Sacramento \*



Gerald E. Depo  
Town of Bloomsburg \*



Henry Geller  
The Markle Foundation \*



Donald Vial  
California Foundation on the Environment & Economy \*



W. Curtiss Priest  
Center for Information Technology and Society \*  
The LINCT Coalition \*

\* Organization is for identification purposes only.

cc: Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Secretary William Caton  
Donald J. Russell, Telecommunications Task Force  
Anti-Trust Division, Department of Justice

CC 97-137



## DETROIT AREA AGENCY ON AGING

1100 Michigan Building  
220 Bagley Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-1410

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**Paul Bridgewater**  
Executive Director

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June 6, 1997

JUN 23 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
The Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in support of the action taken by Ameritech in filing under Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide long distance service in Michigan. Ameritech's filing clearly demonstrates that the competition we hoped would develop when the Act was signed into law by the President, is rapidly becoming a reality.

The emergence of real competition in local and long distance services will ultimately result in new jobs for American workers, provide significant long-term benefits such as lower prices and better service, and foster an environment of innovation.

People with disabilities, in particular, have much to gain from the benefits of a competitive environment. For many Americans with disabilities, affordable telephone service is the primary way to stay in touch with family and friends, obtain needed medical consultation, and maintain contact with the community and support organizations. All consumers should have the option to choose from a variety of available marketplace options, or if they prefer, acquire all the services they need from a single familiar entity. Limiting marketplace options will limit and delay the realization of the benefits of the emerging "Information Age" to an important segment of our population.

Approval of Ameritech's filing will begin to deliver the benefits of the Information Age to America, as Congress intended.

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The Detroit Area Agency on Aging is an Equal Opportunity Employer  
Auxiliary Aids and Services Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities  
The Michigan Relay Center Number is 1-800-649-3777 (voice and TDD)

cc

R. Hundt  
June 6, 1997  
Page 2

Mr. Chairman, I urge your thoughtful consideration and prompt approval of Ameritech's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Bridgewater".

Paul Bridgewater  
Executive Director

PB/oc

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell  
Telecommunications Task Force, Anti-Trust Division  
The United States Department of Justice  
8205 555 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
3838 LIVERNOIS ROAD  
P.O. BOX 7006  
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PHONE (248) 689-8282

June 9, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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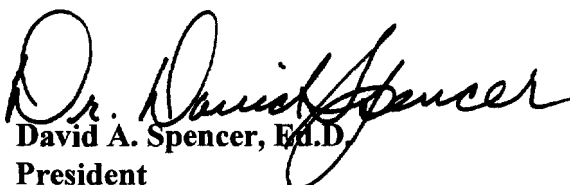
The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing as President of Walsh College, to urge your support of Docket #DA 97-137 and Ameritech's application to provide in-region, long-distance service in Michigan. Full and fair competition is crucial to our national economy, to our educational system, and to maintaining our leadership position in the world economy. True, market-based competition in all telecommunications markets will ensure that the United States continues to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure -- an asset that is essential to building our economy, and building our economy is essential to the nonprofit sector.

We believe that with the Commission's help, we are truly bringing the Information Age to America that Congress intended. I urge you to thoughtfully consider Docket #D197-137 and Ameritech's application.

Sincerely,

  
David A. Spencer, Ed.D.  
President

DAS:jw

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell  
Telecommunications Task Force, Anti-Trust Division  
The U.S. Department of Justice  
8205 555 4th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

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9 June 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Re: Docket #DA 97-137

Two years ago, you participated in the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition's Capitol Hill conference on telecommunications and economic development. The Coalition and the Northeast-Midwest Institute, in several reports beginning in 1988, have argued that the telecommunications infrastructure now is as critical to our region's economic future as the roads, bridges, and railroads have been to the region's industrial past.

Conference participants, as you might remember, agreed that market-based competition is needed to ensure the development of a modern, feature-rich, universally-available telecommunications infrastructure that will enhance this region's economy. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 sought to promote such full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets.

Despite the law, long-distance service has not felt the impacts of competition; in fact, prices have risen steadily. Seeking to compete, Ameritech has made its operating systems accessible to competitors, and it has applied to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in order to provide long-distance services in Michigan.

In the interests of deploying needed telecommunications infrastructure and enhancing our region's economic development, I urge the FCC to approve Ameritech's application and quickly open long-distance markets to competition.

Sincerely,

Dick Munson  
Executive Director

cc: Donald J. Russell  
U.S. Department of Justice

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CIS Deputy Dir. Office Fax:517-373-3728

Jun 10 '97 15:46 P.01

State of Michigan  
John Engler, Governor

Department of Consumer & Industry Services  
Kathleen M. Wilbur, Director

P.O. Box 30004  
Law Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7504  
517-373-1820

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CC 97-137

June 10, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to indicate my support for Ameritech's May 21 request to enter the long distance telephone market. Approval of this filing would be of great benefit to Michigan consumers by increasing competition and customer choice in the long distance market. The Michigan Public Service Commission has reviewed the filing and has determined that Ameritech unconditionally meets 11 items of the 14-item checklist and can satisfy the requirements of the other three items within the 90-day review period.

Giving Ameritech permission to enter the long distance market at the earliest possible date will ensure that Michigan's consumers fully enjoy the benefits of competitive telecommunications provided by the federal act and 1995 amendments to the Michigan Telecommunications Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Wilbur  
Director

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TDD 313/271-2455

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to learn from these  
traditions to help shape  
a better future.*

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20544

Docket # DA97-137

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As president of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, a nonprofit educational institution, I fully support the Michigan 271 filing. For us to provide state-of-the-art telecommunications technology to our over one million visitors each year, we must be able to ensure that we are getting the best possible long-distance rates. Healthy competition among the communications markets would enable us to do so.

Museums across the country are quickly realizing that, to remain viable, their educational offerings must include cyberspace access; but as nonprofits, rising long-distance costs are a very real concern.

I urge the FCC to quickly open long-distance markets to fair competition.

Sincerely,

Steven K. Hamp  
President

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell

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LEADERSHIP  
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June 5, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street North West  
Washington, D.C. 20544

RE: Docket #97-137

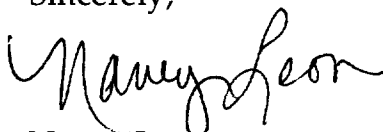
Dear Hon. Hundt:

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to provide healthy competition in all telecommunications markets, which will be key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses and schools. The Telecommunications Act has been in effect for over a year, with no noticeable impact on long distance prices, which have steadily gone up.

As a national organization, we need to be able to make the best choices in local and long distance providers based on the best products and services, at the best prices, with the best customer service and value at the core of our decision process. We should have a full range of providers to choose from, and right now, the most qualified, reliable competitors can't compete in offering long distance services.

Please do not delay any longer in opening long distance markets to full, fair and qualified competition. Please move favorably and quickly to approve Ameritech's application to provide long distance services in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Nancy León  
President

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell

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June 9, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington, DC 20544

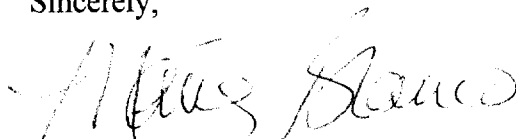
RE: Docket # 97-137

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to provide healthy competition in all telecommunication markets, which will be key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses and schools. As a (global, multi-state, national) (organization, company corporation), we need to be able to make the best choices in local and long distance providers based on the best products and services, at the best prices, with the best customer service and value at the core of our decision process.

True, market-based competition in telecommunications markets will ensure that the United States continues to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure-an asset to building our economy, retraining and attracting new business, and to meeting the needs of an increasingly sophisticated America. We should have a full range of providers to choose from, and right now, the most qualified, reliable competitors can't compete in offering long distance services.

Please do not delay any longer in opening long distance markets to full, fair and qualified competition.

Sincerely,



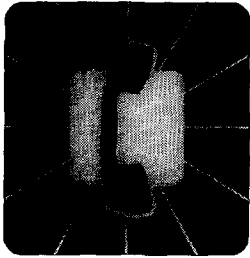
MARIA BLANCO  
Legislative Chair  
Hispanic National Bar Association

cc: Hugo Chaviaro  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

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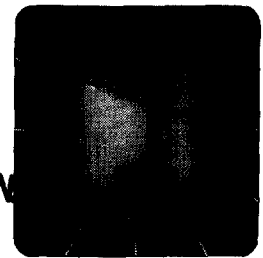
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



# National Latino Telecommunication Taskforce

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1730 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Suite 505  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202/835-9672 ♦ 202/457-0455fax



DA #97-137

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JUN 23 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20544

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hundt:

On behalf of the National Latino Telecommunication Taskforce (NLTT), I would like to add our support for approval for open entry into the long-distance market in Michigan as well as the rest of the nation. The NLTT is a coalition of Hispanic non-profit organizations, private businesses and individuals concerned with the role of Latinos in the development of the national information network.

True, market-based competition in all telecommunications markets will ensure the United States will continue to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure—an asset that is essential to building our economy. The Hispanic community, fast becoming the largest minority population, utilizes long distance services more than the general population. Open entrance into the long distance market will benefit the Hispanic consumer through lower rates and added choice that market-based competition brings.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has been in effect for over a year with no noticeable impact on long-distance rates. The intent of the Act was to promote full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets which will be key to the delivery of the information superhighway to the consumer, business, education and non-profit sectors. We endorse the full and fair competition that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 intended.

Recently, the Michigan Public Service Commission confirmed that Ameritech had met the elements set forth in the 14-point checklist opening the local market. Please do not delay in opening long distance markets to competition, for the benefit of U.S. commerce.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Bela, Esq.  
Chairman

Cc: Donald J. Russell

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CC 97-137

# THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING

409 Third Street SW Washington, DC 20024 TEL 202 479-1200 TDD 202 479-6674 FAX 202 479-0735 <http://www.ncoa.org>

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ameritech Communications, Inc. Filing to Provide Long Distance Service

Dear Mr. Chairman:


I am submitting these comments on behalf of the National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA). NCOA is a center of leadership and nationwide expertise in the issues of aging. NCOA is an association of more than 7,500 members -- organizations and individuals -- who work with or on behalf of older persons.

To date, the Telecommunications Act has not had a noticeable impact on long distance pricing. NCOA supports increased competition in both the local and long distance markets to help reduce the cost of residential phone bills and, ultimately, improve the quality of service and stimulate greater innovation.

Many older persons on fixed incomes would benefit from increased competition, as higher prices may force them to choose between having a phone or paying for food, heat, or housing. Telecommunications provides critical access to the outside world to many senior citizens who live alone or in rural areas. Widespread, affordable, reliable telecommunications services not only enhance older persons' independence, but makes it easier for caregivers to assist them.

Senior citizens should have the ability to choose among a variety of marketplace options, or, if they prefer, acquire all the services they need from a single familiar entity. Limiting marketplace options and restricting competition will impede and delay the realization of the emerging "Information Age" for an important and growing segment of our population. The entrance of new, customer focused competitors should offer improved options that represent increased value over existing services.

Sincerely,

  
James Firman  
President and CEO

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CC 97-137

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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**BARBARA J. DOBB**

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P.O. BOX 30014

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(517) 373-1799

1-800-335 DOBB

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June 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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Dear Chairman Hundt:

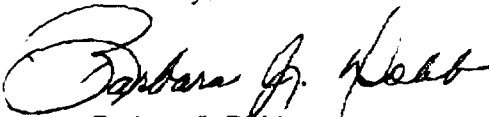
As the former chairperson of the Michigan House of Representatives Public Utilities Committee, I am once again writing to ask that you further open Michigan's markets and approve Ameritech-Michigan's application to provide in-region long-distance services pursuant to the terms of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

As I stated in January, my leadership role in creating the Michigan Telecommunications Act of 1995 ensured that Michigan consumers have more phone service choices at a lower cost. However, while Michigan consumers have more choices today than ever, many are still demanding the ease and lower cost that one-stop shopping promises.

Michigan has now issued more than twenty licenses for providers of basic telephone service in competitive markets and has authorized seventeen interconnect agreements. Long-distance and other local carriers are now successfully competing in Michigan's local markets. For example, Brooks Fiber is asserting that they are "the first local phone service in the country to compete with Ameritech" and MCI is advertising that "for the first time in history, businesses can choose a local phone service."

Providing customers with yet another important choice in telecommunications services is now in your hands. Allowing Ameritech to provide in-region long-distance service expedites Michigan's move toward deregulation. I encourage you to give serious consideration to Ameritech's application in order to further both Michigan and the federal government's goal of building a truly competitive telecommunication market.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Dobb  
State Representative

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BJD/lc

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	6-10	# of pages	1
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Phone #	(517) 373-1799	Phone #	1-800-335-3122		
Fax #	(517) 373-1799	Fax #			



# United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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June 5, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
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RE: Docket #97-137

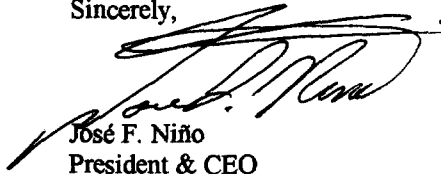
The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to provide healthy competition in all telecommunications markets, which will be key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses and schools. As a national organization, we need to be able to make the best choices in local and long distance providers based on the best products and services, at the best prices, with the best customer service and value at the core of our decision process.

True market-based competition in telecommunications markets will ensure that the United States continues to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure—an asset to building our economy, retraining and attracting new business, and meeting the needs of an increasingly sophisticated America. We should have a full range of providers to choose from, and right now, the most qualified, reliable competitors can not compete in offering long distance services.

We encourage you to move forward in opening long distance markets to full, fair and qualified competition.

The USHCC's primary goal is to represent the interests of over 1,000,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. With a network of nearly 250 Hispanic Chambers of Commerce across the country, the USHCC has become the umbrella organization that actively promotes the growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,



José F. Niño  
President & CEO

CC: Mr. Donald J. Russell  
U.S. Department of Justice

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